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NEWS AND COMMENTS

CLARENCE SUMNER PAINE

The Mississippi valley historical association suffered its greatest loss on June 14, 1916, in the death of Mr. Clarence S. Paine, the secretary-treasurer of the association.

Mr. Paine was born in Eden Prairie township, Minnesota, on June 11, 1867. The years of his early manhood were spent in the lumber camps and on the farms of that state. Later his interests turned to business pursuits, in preparation for which he attended school for a time in Minneapolis and also completed a business college course. Locating at Boone, Iowa, he established a business college. It was during the period of his residence in Iowa that his interest in state and local history was aroused. In 1897 he removed to Nebraska and ten years later was elected secretary of the Nebraska state historical society. From that time until the day of his death he was at the center of all the movements connected in any way with the preservation of the history of Nebraska.

Mr. Paine's enthusiasm in the cause of history, however, extended beyond the boundaries of the state of his adoption. It was he who in 1907 issued the call for the meeting at Lincoln which finally resulted in the formation of the Mississippi valley historical association. Not only did his infectious confidence of success lead to the organization of the association, but throughout the nine years of its existence his never-failing optimism and his tireless, unselfish labors as secretary-treasurer have been the most potent factors in promoting its growth and placing it upon a firm foundation.

Mr. Paine's presence, his spirit of intense loyalty, and his annual reports, so full of encouragement, will be sorely missed at the meetings of the association. He will always be held in grateful remembrance by those who have at heart the cause of history in the Mississippi valley.

Major George W. Littlefield of Austin has again placed students of southwestern history in his debt, this time by contributing to the University of Texas the sum of \$5000 for current use in the purchase of material and the encouragement of research. This gift is in addition to the fund of \$25,000 which Major Littlefield gave to the university two years ago, the present usefulness of which is limited by a provision that for twenty-five years the income only is to be available.

Work is now well under way in the construction of the splendid new

building which is to house the Minnesota historical society, and occasion is taken in the May number of the *Minnesota history bulletin* to sketch the story of how the building has been made possible and to describe in detail the plans which are being followed. The architect's drawing and the floor plans show that utility and convenience have been combined most successfully with dignified and artistic design; especially commendable are the arrangements which have been made to allow for future expansion. The building is to be peculiarly a Minnesota structure, inasmuch as the granite and marble which are to go into its making have been produced within the state. It is expected that the society will be able to move into its spacious new quarters by October, 1917.

The building of the Panama canal has by no means made it possible to regard the American navy as one and indivisible, in the opinion of Fred T. Jane, the noted British naval authority. In the July number of the *Military historian and economist*, Mr. Jane — who died shortly after the production of this article — discusses very suggestively "The American navy 'as a line of defence.'" He draws the conclusion that the United States faces two great perils, Japan on the Pacific, Germany on the Atlantic, and that her only safety lies in building up two large fleets, either one of which could hold its own independently of the other, even if a hostile air attack should destroy the Panama canal.

The table of contents for the July issue of the *Catholic historical review* presents an unusually interesting array of titles, among them "Diocesan organization in the Spanish colonies," "A revaluation of early Peruvian history," "Catholic education in Mexico (1525-1915)," "Some American items from an old Austrian periodical," and "A vanished bishopric of Ohio."

The National Economic league recently completed the first volume of its *Quarterly* with an unusually interesting number, containing discussions of "Preparedness" by Albert Bushnell Hart, Oswald Garrison Villard, and Henry A. Wise Wood; a report on "International peace," by a special committee of the league made up of Samuel J. Elder, William H. Lincoln, George Grafton Wilson, George Weston Anderson, and Denys P. Myers; and an address on the same topic delivered by William Jennings Bryan before the Economic club of Washington in March, 1916.

In the *History teacher's magazine* for June, Mr. K. S. Latourette makes a plea for "The history of the far east, a neglected field:" Mr. F. H. Hodder discusses "The purchase of Louisiana;" and Mr. B. H. Nye contributes an interesting description of "A Canadian port in war time." In addition a summary is presented of a discussion of "The definition of the field of secondary school history" which took place in

part at a meeting of the American historical association and the California history teachers' association in July, 1915, and again at the meeting of the American historical association in Washington last December.

The June number of the *American economic review* contains the following articles: "Tax exemption through tax capitalization," by T. S. Adams; "Valuation of railroad right-of-way," by A. M. Sakolski; "Trade organization in China," by Albert C. Muhse; and "Wage theories in industrial arbitration," by Wilson Compton.

Public education in Maryland: a report to the Maryland educational survey commission (New York: General education board, 1916. 176 p.), by Abraham Flexner and Frank P. Bachman, embodies the results of an investigation of the elementary and secondary schools in Maryland which was made by two experts from the General education board. Its careful analysis of conditions and its suggestions for improvements will doubtless prove helpful to those interested in educational problems not only in Maryland but in other states as well.

The *Transactions* of the Illinois state historical society for 1915 (Springfield, 1916. 211 p.) has just appeared. In addition to the record of the proceedings of the annual meeting, the volume contains the papers which were read at the meeting and also a number of "contributions to state history" in the form of reminiscences, a memorial address on General James Shields, and a group of historical papers from the Quincy chapter of the Daughters of the American revolution.

The principal articles in the June *Bulletin des recherches historiques* are: "Essai de fondation d'un ordre de contemplatives, à Montréal, au 19e siècle" by E. Z. Massicotte, and "Tuileries et briqueteries à Québec sous le régime français" by Pierre-Georges Roy.

Light is thrown on an obscure phase of American history in a study of "John Baker, the hero of Madawaska" by George S. Rowell, in the *Magazine of history* for April. George Haven Putnam, in the same issue, discusses the part played in the formation of English sentiment against the north during the civil war by the London *Times* under the editorship of John Delane.

In his biography of *Captain Logan: Blair county's Indian chief* (Altoona, Pennsylvania: Altoona publishing company, 1915. 40 p.), Henry W. Shoemaker has produced an interesting newspaper story based on a considerable mass of material, mostly legendary in character. Little historical value can be attached to the work, but it should be given credit for picturing effectively one detail in the long tragic story of the conflict between Indians and whites. The hero was the brother of the

famous Mingo chief, Tah-gah-Jute or James Logan, but unlike him, was a peace-loving Indian who steadily refused to turn against the whites, even though repeatedly wronged by them.

The July issue of the *Pennsylvania magazine of history and biography* prints a letter written in 1789 by Edward Hand, in behalf of the citizens of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, urging congress to consider their little city of 4,200 souls as the site of the federal capital. Its location on the chief routes of travel is emphasized; and its various activities are cited to show its advantages over any other inland city. The original of this quaint document is among the Yeates papers in the manuscript collections of the historical society of Pennsylvania.

The *Virginia magazine of history and biography* has begun — in its June issue — the publication of a series of letters of William Byrd I, a prominent planter and trader of Virginia in the latter part of the seventeenth century. His correspondence is valuable chiefly for the light it throws upon trade relations between Virginia and England, but there are incidentally some more or less interesting references to the Indian trade and exploration of the west.

The leading article in the *Indiana magazine of history* for June is: "The socialist party in Indiana since 1896," by Ora Ellen Cox. The study has particular significance in view of the part played by the Indiana organization in the history of the socialist movement as a whole: the present socialist party was launched at a unity convention held in Indianapolis, the first chairman of its first national convention was John Kelly of Marion, and its candidate for president in four campaigns, Mr. Eugene Debs, was born in Terre Haute and still lives there.

In the same magazine, Mr. Jacob P. Dunn proposes the interesting question: "Who was our Sieur de Vincennes?" Mr. Dunn cites a number of original documents bearing on the subject, and although he is unable to solve his mystery, he does succeed in clarifying the circumstances accompanying the founding of the post of Vincennes on the Wabash. Another contribution worth noting is: "Tecumseh's confederacy," by Elmore Barce.

"Indian treaties affecting lands in Illinois" form the subject of a study by Frank R. Grover in the recently published *Journal of the Illinois state historical society* for October, 1915.

In the July number of the *Iowa journal of history and politics*, Mr. Jacob Van der Zee contributes some "Episodes in the early history of the Des Moines valley;" Mr. Dan E. Clark discusses the "Arguments in favor of the admission of Iowa into the union;" and Miss Ruth E.

Gallaher publishes the third of her series of papers on "Indian agents in Iowa."

The State historical society of Missouri rightly considers that one of its functions should be the investigation of place names. With this end in view, Mr. David W. Eaton has prepared a series of articles on "How Missouri counties, towns, and streams were named;" the first installment appears in the April issue of the *Missouri historical review*. Mr. C. H. McClure in the same magazine contributes a paper entitled: "Early opposition to Thomas Hart Benton."

The Minnesota historical society and the University of Minnesota have arranged to divide their interests in the field of Scandinavian materials in such a way that the university will devote its attention to Scandinavian languages and literature and materials dealing with the history of the Scandinavian countries, while the historical society will collect materials relating to Scandinavians who have immigrated to the United States. Thus both institutions will be able to build up specialized libraries which will be more valuable and more exhaustive because of this limitation of scope.